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PEIRCE FAMILY

by

Ebenezer Weaver Peirce

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THE PEIRCE FAMILY.

[Communicated by Gen. EBENEZER W. PEIRCE, of Freetown.]

CAPTAIN JOB PEIRCE (No. 47) was the 3d son of Ebenezer Peirce (No. 22) and wife Mary Hoskins,* and born in that part of Middleborough now called Lakeville, Nov. 29, 1737. (Town Records of Middleborough.)

At the proper age he was apprenticed to William Strobridge, of Middleborough, blacksmith, and while thus engaged, hostilities were renewed between England and France.†

Affairs in the northern part of the colony of New York soon began to assume a gloomy aspect, Fort William Henry‡ being menaced by the French and Indians under the Marquis Montcalm; who though foiled§ in his first attempt, about five months after, through the imbecility or ill timed prudence of Gen. Webb, the English commander, was enabled to succeed in forcing the fortress to surrender, and then turning loose two thousand of his Indian allies upon the captives, fifteen hundred of the latter, in violation of the terms of capitulation, were butchered or dragged into hopeless captivity. More than one hundred men, slain or shockingly mangled, were left upon the ground. The fort was entirely demolished, and the barracks and out houses reduced to a heap of burning ruins. Half consumed human skulls and bones, frying and boiling in the decaying fires, loaded the air with suffocating smoke and an intolerable stench. The devastation, barbarity and horror that every where appeared, presented a spectacle too diabolical for description.

It was upon one of the alarms consequent on this unhappy state of affairs, that Job Peirce was required to leave the labors of the anvil, and perform a short tour of duty, in a company of the local militia of Middleborough, under Captain Joseph Tinkham, detached as a reinforcement for Fort Wm. Henry. (See French and Indian War Rolls for 1757, at State House, Boston.) But the crisis was over ere this gallant body of citizen soldiers reached the utmost limits of our own State, and they were therefore ordered to return, having neither shed blood nor had sight of the foe, and the campaign to the young militia man was but a series of sights and scenes, novel and gratifying.

Early the next year, Capt. Benjamin Pratt having received orders to raise a company for the Provincial service, Job Peirce succeeded in getting leave from his master to enlist on condition that the latter should receive one half his pay. April 5, 1758, witnessed his entrance into the regular service, as the ward of William Strobridge, of

* Daughter of Henry Hoskins, and granddaughter of William Hoskins, of Taunton.

† War was declared June 9, 1756, and ended with the treaty of Paris, concluded and signed Feb. 10, 1763.

‡ Fort William Henry was on the head of Lake George, and was erected by General John Burgoyne in the close of 1755.

§ May 16, 1757, on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, the first attempt to capture the garrison was made, and frustrated by the vigilance of Lieut. (afterwards General) Stark. Montcalm expected to find them all drunk, and the Irish soldiers were, but Stark and his Rangers were sober and saved the fort.

¶ The second and successful attack was in August, 1757.

Middleborough, and in the Regiment of Colonel Thomas Doty, where he was accredited with service 8 months and 15 days, for which he received 15 pounds and 6 pence, his own part amounting to 7 pounds 10 shillings and 1 and a half pence, which when reduced to the currency of our own time was 25 dollars 6 and a quarter cents. (See War Rolls for 1758, at the State House.)

Among the stories with which my parent sought to amuse me when a child, was the recitation of his father's account of what he saw and suffered in this bloody campaign, and more particularly the disaster of July 6 and 8, 1758.

It was just at dark on a sultry Saturday evening, when a well armed force of sixteen thousand men debarked upon a beautiful cape on the western shore of Lake George, to enjoy a few hours repose, and re-embarking about midnight, moved slowly and majestically down the lake at an early hour Sunday morning. In a large boat the youthful hero, Lord Howe, the loved and honored of both officers and soldiers, led the van of the flotilla, accompanied by a guard of Rangers. In the "full blaze of red uniforms," next came the English Regulars, while the Provincials occupied the wings, and thus under a clear sky, without a breeze to disturb the placid waters, this imposing armament exhibited a grand military show. At a later hour Sunday morning (July 6), this formidable army was safely landed about four miles from Fort Ticonderoga (then held by the French), and before noon in three columns, with the Rangers of Rogers and Stark as advance and flank guard, pressed steadily forward through a dense forest towards the point of destined attack. But, through the ignorance of the guides, they were soon thrown into confusion, and, encountering the French advance guard, a skirmish ensued, in which Lord Howe was killed, and the English greatly fatigued, broken and confused, fell back to the place of landing and there bivouacked for the night.

Early on the morning of the 7th, Col. Bradstreet advanced and occupied an abandoned position of the enemy, near the present village of Ticonderoga, and an engineer, sent forward to reconnoitre, reported the fort to be in an unfinished condition and that it could be easily taken. July 8th, the troops were again put in motion towards the fortress, which, as they approached, was found to completely shelter the French, who opened upon the English with a heavy discharge of artillery. Yet, in spite of this terrible storm of death, the English pressed forward, determined to carry the works by assault; but were prevented by a deep and well constructed abatis, which for four hours they sought in vain to remove or cut through: while at each successive and rapid discharge of the French artillery scores of the brave English soldiers were mown down, and it was not until the loss of the latter amounted to nearly two thousand men that Gen. Abercrombie ordered a retreat. And what a retreat was that! The horrors of the scene were clearly remembered by Job Peirce to his dying day. The ground, said he, was covered with the dead and dying; the latter appealing for assistance in tones of anguish enough to move to pity the hardest heart: and every bush seemed the covert of a lurking savage ready to pounce upon, torture and tear the wounded, strip and mangle the dead, while their unearthly yells nearly drowned the ear-piercing cries of the wounded, as if

"All the fiends from heaven that fell
Had pealed the banner cry of hell."

This tour of Job Peirce's service closed on the 24th of Nov., 1758, or five days before he attained his majority. Remaining at home through the winter, the next spring (*viz.*, April 6, 1759), he again enlisted, and from the French and Indian war Rolls at the State House, Boston, we learn that he served out the term of another enlistment of 30 weeks. For this service his wages amounted to 13 pounds and 10 shillings, from which was deducted the sum of 8 pence he had received of Lemuel Dunbar, his captain; thus leaving the balance due him, 13 pounds 9 shillings and 4 pence, which in our currency equals 44 dollars 89 cents.*

His second term of Provincial service was performed at Halifax, N. S. At its close, it being about the commencement of December (1759), Job Peirce, with other soldiers whose enlistment had just expired, was put on board a government transport bound for Boston, but had not been out long ere they encountered a severe storm, that speedily reduced the vessel to an unmanageable wreck, which with the relief afforded by almost constant pumping was yet scarcely able to float. When the storm subsided they found themselves far out of their course, and short of provisions. Entirely at the mercy of the currents and the winds, they drifted for several weeks; but when hope had nearly vanished, their fresh water being about exhausted and almost the last biscuit served out, they discovered land, and succeeded in getting ashore on one of the West India Islands, where they were forced to remain till some vessel, homeward bound, chanced to stop.

Meanwhile, news of the departure of the transport from Halifax, together with the names of her ill-fated passengers, was received in the Old Colony homes of the returning soldiers; and after anxious watching and waiting for intelligence of those who survived the storm, the parents of Job Peirce felt compelled to relinquish all hope of ever seeing their son. The sorrowing parents are in a measure comforted for their supposed loss in the safe return of their older son, Lt. Abial Peirce,† from the famed field at Quebec; for whose preservation in the terrible day of battle they devoutly thank God.

The weary months of a cheerless winter at length are passed, and no news being received of the loved one and lost, a proper respect for his memory is thought to demand the public demonstration of a funeral, and the erection of a monumental stone.

But the warm sun that brings "seed time and harvest" has returned, and Job Peirce, the brave soldier and tempest-tossed sailor, has at last succeeded in securing a passage on board a vessel bound for New England, and is safely landed at New Bedford. Allowing no delay, he out-travels the news of his arrival, and stands upon his native hills again. Scenes familiar, orchards and beechen forests meet his eye; but, save the lowing of cattle and the singing of birds, a death-like stillness prevails, for it is Sunday—a New England Sabbath, kept after the manner of the Puritan fathers. No alarm was therefore occasioned in his mind to find his home untenanted, the entire family having repaired to the country church to attend public worship: an example he lost no time in following. Arriving at the sauc-

* I am thus particular, that it may readily be seen how small a sum of money those men received who braved those dangers and endured all this suffering.

† Job Peirce's term of service at Halifax, N. S., expired Nov. 2, 1759, and that of his brother, Lt. Abial Peirce, at or near Quebec, Dec. 16, 1759.

tuary during the "leng prayer," at its close he walked reverently up the broad aisle to the family pew, and there took his seat, creating no small stir among the worshippers: for the superstition of that day invested the sight with far less novelty than terror. It is uncertain how the grave assembly would have gained its equilibrium, but for the good sense and remarkable presence of mind exhibited by the preacher, who was about to open the sacred volume to improve upon his contemplated text: for, when this unexpected sight quite upset his former plans, without finding his text or even opening the book, he gave out that passage of the Scripture which saith, "For this my son was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found."

For the next two years, the name of Job Peirce does not appear upon the ancient war rolls at the State House. One brother, however, has been promoted to a captaincy, raised his company and again repaired to the field, taking another brother in the capacity of a private soldier. The reason why Job, himself, did not also go, will be evident from the fact that soon after this was the publication of "the banns" between Job Peirce, of Middleborough, and Miss Elizabeth Rounsevell,* of Freetown. She was the orphan daughter of William Rounsevell, eldest son of Philip Rounsevell the emigrant, who at that time was one of the wealthiest men in Bristol county, and among the largest landholders of the Colony. May 18, 1761, Job Peirce, of Middleborough, and Miss Elizabeth Rounsevell, of Freetown, were joined in marriage (see Town Records of Middleborough), he being 23 years of age, and she 17.

Early the next year (viz., March 21), Job Peirce for a third time enlists, and his name now appears "in his Majesty's Service," and in the company of which "Ephraim Holmes, Esq. is Captain." Here he served till March 14, 1763, or 50 weeks and 6 days. The whole amount of his wages was 22 pounds 17 shillings and 9 pence, of which he had taken 14 shillings in beer, and the balance due him was 22 pounds 3 shillings and 9 pence. With Job, in this company, also served his brother Henry Peirce, who was six years his junior.

News of the treaty of peace concluded and signed Feb. 10, 1763, between England and France, rendered their further service unnecessary, and Capt. Abial Peirce, with his brothers Job and Henry, were honorably mustered out of the service, and for the next twelve years suffered to dwell in peace at home.

During his absence upon this last campaign (viz., April 25, 1762), the happiness of his house is increased by the birth of their first child, a daughter, who was blessed with a good constitution, sound health, and remarkable sweetness of temper, which with the addition of a well balanced mind, made her the loved and honored of all classes of society, and no doubt conspired to prolong her life of usefulness to the good old age of 85 years. But with the return of peace, the young husband, released from further service in the field of carnage, with health and morals unimpaired, returns to the bosom of his family and friends: and the grateful parents, mindful of God's watchful care, name their first born, *Mercy*.

* Her brother Levi Rounsevell was Captain of the Freetown company of Minute Men, "that responded to the call at Lexington alarm, and he afterwards raised and commanded a company of the Continental Army." (See Rolls at the State House, Boston.)

(155) Mercy Peirce, born April 25, 1762, married Oct. 11, 1782, Major Peter Hoar, of Middleborough, an officer of the Patriot army in the war of the Revolution. She died May 20, 1847, in her 86th year. He died March 12, 1815, aged 60 years. (Town Records of Middleborough.)

The year 1763 was rendered memorable in the family of Job Peirce by two events:—first, his safe and final return home from the sanguinary fields of the French and Indian war; and secondly, by the death of his wife's grandfather, Philip Rounsevell, of Freetown, at the age of 85 years.

Philip Rounsevell emigrated to America from Honetun, in Devonshire County, England, about the year 1700, being then near 23 years of age. He was by trade a clothier or cloth dresser, but by practice a shrewd schemer; and keen calculations and singular foresight enabled him to accumulate a larger property than that acquired by his neighbors. He not only had the faculty to get, but also to keep; for he was patient, self-denying and exceedingly obstinate, and 60 years of almost unprecedented success made him not a little purse-proud, arbitrary and overbearing. Such unlimited confidence did he repose in himself and such contempt for every body else, that his children, now advanced to the age of three score, were to his mind still in their non-age in the ability to manage property, and no division of his property or power would he make with any of them. They must wait till after his death, and all must keep upon their good behavior, or "*King Philip*" (as his neighbors nicknamed him) would cut them off with a shilling at last. William Rounsevell, eldest son of Philip, had died when his daughter Elizabeth was little more than five months old. When, therefore, Job Peirce became the husband of Elizabeth Rounsevell, it was expected that he would be extremely careful to humor all the whims of her austere grandfather, in the hope that his wife might be handsomely provided for in the Will of that man whose perverseness had ever kept his family under such long and degrading surveillance. The young wife is still at her grandfather's, and the old gentleman, who is evidently pleased with her husband, astonishes the neighbors by the liberality of his expenditure for the beautiful furniture he has procured as the outfit for the granddaughter. The day is set when the house-keeping of the youthful pair shall commence, and Job Peirce sends an old-fashioned, long bodied ox cart to take to their new house the first load of furniture. When the cart was loaded and ready to start, Philip Rounsevell thus addresses the young husband:—"The furniture upon this cart is mine, and I loan it to you for the use of your wife, my granddaughter." "Indeed," says the young man, with mock gravity, "indeed, you surprise me: now let me return your favor by surprising you equally as much. I am unwilling to borrow any thing of *you*, nor will I;" and, suiting his action to the words, stepped to the forward end of the cart, and raised it till the tailbridge rested on the ground, then starting the team drove on till the last article of furniture had tumbled from the cart and lay scattered upon the ground: then turning to his bride, he said; "Come, let us go home, I didn't *borrow you*."

No murmur or complaint escaped the lips of the lady whose money matters had thus been so seriously compromised, for with her hand she had given her heart, and was ready to leave not only father and mother

but grandfather with all his wealth, if the same in any measure sought to pluck asunder what God had joined together. Her husband fully appreciated the worth of his wife, and realized the obligation he was under; and thus was laid the firm and lasting foundation for that mutual affection towards each other, which ever characterized their married life. When, therefore, the burthen of more than 80 years was upon him, and the pains, aches and decrepitude to which flesh at four score is the legitimate heir were realized in his person, Job Peirce was frequently heard to say, "Had I not lived to be old, I never should have known how an old person feels: but it is all right, for I have had a long life of prosperity, health and happiness. I have taken a great deal of comfort in living;" and then, in the language of his illustrious namesake of the land of Uz, would add, "Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" It was to his wife's sagacity or practical common sense that Job Peirce owed much of that counsel which perfected his plans, and secured to him that long and uninterrupted tide of good fortune by which he was made to rank among the most wealthy men of his native town.

Philip Rounsevell, the grandfather, was a man far too practical to allow any sudden gust of passion to put him permanently in the mood to wrong his own blood, and no doubt soon felt a secret satisfaction, and indulged an inward pride in the flattering prospects of the young people who had so resolutely and yet so patiently set out unaided to face the storms and stem the adverse currents of life; and, at his death, it was found that Elizabeth, although the wife of the unyielding Job Peirce, had been well cared for, and her portion equalled all her most sanguine expectations had ever caused her to anticipate, even had her husband given the utmost satisfaction to the austere donor. Their union was now blessed in the birth of a second child, their first born son, whom the happy mother christens with the name of her own father.

(156) William Rounsevell Peirce was born April 19, 1764; married Leonora (daughter of Francis ?*) Jones of Beaufort County, N. Carolina. William, a sailor in the Patriot Navy in the war of the Revolution, was captured, carried to England and there confined. He also served as a soldier in Capt. Henry Peirce's company, upon R. Island; after the war became a master mariner, and died May 15, 1794, upon the Island of St. Bartholomew, where he was buried. A stone was erected to his memory in the family cemetery in Middleborough, now Lakeville.

(157) Elizabeth, second daughter, born Jan. 6, 1766, married, Jan. 6, 1788, General Abial Washburn, of Middleborough.† She died March 23, 1850. He died June 17, 1843.

(158) Job,‡ second son, born Dec. 12, 1767, married, Jan. 3, 1799, Annie, daughter of Lieut. Robert Strobridge, of Middleborough, now Lakeville. This eminently successful merchant died at Free-

* Tradition in the family says she was the daughter of Esquire Jones, and some of William's papers lead us to suppose he was Francis Jones, Esq., of Beaufort Co., N. C.

† He was commissioned Adjutant of 4th Regiment in 1st Brigade, 5th Division, Oct. 2, 1788. Promoted to Junior Major of said Regiment May 1, 1794. Senior Major, Jan. 4, 1797. Lt. Col. Commenced, July 22, 1800. Brigadier General, Sept. 4, 1816. Honorably discharged in 1821. Paid the largest tax in Middleborough.

‡ Commissioned Captain of 1st Company of Infantry in Freetown, Aug. 24, 1801. His company paraded at his funeral.

town Sept. 22, 1805, and was buried (with military honors) in the family cemetery in Middleborough.

(159) Annie, third daughter, born Dec. 18, 1769, married Dr. Nicholas Hathaway (her cousin), of Taunton. She died near Milford, Union Co., Ohio, Sept. 28, 1822. He died at the same place.

(160) Lucy, fourth daughter, born Dec. 18, 1771, married, Feb. 19, 1795, Hon. William Bourne,* of Middleborough. She died Dec. 2, 1859. He died Dec., 1815.

(161) Levi,† third son, born Oct. 1, 1773, married, Dec. 13, 1795, Sarah, a daughter of Capt. Abner Bourne‡ of Middleborough. Levi commanded a battalion in active service in the last war with England; was deacon of the Baptist Church in Middleborough, and noted for liberality and benevolence. He died August, 1817.

(162) Ebenezer.§ fourth son, born May 26, 1775, was christened John for his father's eldest brother (No. 41), and continued to be called John till the death of his uncle Ebenezer Peirce (No. 53), (who perished in the defence of his country in the war of the American Revolution, being a soldier in the company of Capt. Joshua White, in service at Newport, R. I.), when his name was changed to Ebenezer. He married, April 24, 1803, Joanna, eldest daughter of Colonel Benjamin Weaver,¶ of Freetown, and died Jan. 6, 1845. She died Jan. 6, 1859, in her 73d year.

(163) Polly, fifth daughter, born May 31, 1777, married, in 1797, Rev. David A. Leonard, of Bridgewater. They removed to Kentucky. She died Oct. 2, 1836. They were the parents of the wives of Governor Merriweather and Hon. William P. Thomason, members of Congress from Kentucky, and the grandparents of Major John Hay, private Secretary to President Lincoln.

(164) Sally, sixth daughter, born March 20, 1779, married Abial Nelson, of Middleborough, now Lakeville. She died Nov. 24, 1838. He died in 1829.

(165) Elnathan, fifth son, born Oct. 20, 1781, died Oct. 5, 1797.

(166) Thomas, sixth son, born Dec. 26, 1783, died March 1, 1784.

(167) Peter Hoar, seventh son, born March 25, 1788, married, May 10, 1813, Nabby, a daughter of Thomas Sprout, of Middleborough. He died Jan. 27, 1861. She died in 186-. He commanded a company in active service in the last war with England.

* Captain of Volunteer Cavalry from May 22, 1797; Major of Cavalry Sept. 12, 1803; Member of Massachusetts Senate, 1829, and one of the County Commissioners.

† Promoted from Serjeant-Major to Major 4th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 5th Division, June 8, 1809; Senior Major, 1812. Honorably discharged, 1816. Several times Representative from Middleborough to General Court at Boston; Member of Constitutional Convention, 1820; Postmaster many years.

‡ Capt. Abner Bourne commanded a company in the Patriot army, in service at R. I., in the war of the Revolution, and was Deacon of the 1st Congregational Church in Middleborough.

§ Town Clerk of Freetown in 1801, 1803-04, and 1805; Representative to the General Court, 1808 and 1824; Auditor of Town Accounts 20 years; Deacon of 1st Christian Church in Freetown thirty-five years.

¶ Officer of the Patriot army in the war of the Revolution, being Captain in Col. Kempton's Regiment, and then Lt. Colonel of Colonel George Claghorn's Regiment. Claghorn was named commander of the private Constitution, and built for the first American whaler that doubled Cape Horn and obtained a cargo of oil in the Pacific Ocean.

* Commissioned Lieutenant of 2d Company of Infantry in Middleborough in 1810; Captain, Feb. 18, 1811; promoted to Major of the 4th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 5th Division of Massachusetts Militia, in 1816; Lt. Colonel, April 25, 1818; honorably discharged, 1822. He was several times a member of the Massachusetts Senate.

THE PEIRCE FAMILY OF THE OLD COLONY.

[Communicated for the New England Historical and Genealogical Register,
by GEN. EBENEZER W. PEIRCE.]

Continued from page 79.

The January issue of the current volume of the Register contained a sketch of Capt. Job Peirce, of Middleborough, Plymouth Co., Mass., from Nov. 29, 1737, the date of his birth, to his honorable discharge from the military service at the close of the French and Indian war in 1763, when he was little more than 25 years of age.

But to close there, would be to render a very imperfect biography of a man whose years of usefulness were prolonged to more than four score, and who in the war for Independence never allowed his faith to waver, nor his heart to quail, and who, in his after life, was as eyes to the blind and feet to the lame of his neighborhood. From the close of the French and Indian war to the commencement of the war of the Revolution, he was industriously engaged in the avocation of a farmer, practising upon the principle, and realizing the truth of the proverb, "the hand of the diligent maketh rich." Had Job Peirce been a selfish man, doubtless he would have concluded that he had much less to gain by the Rebellion if successful, than to lose if defeated. But this consideration could not induce him to swerve from his honest convictions of duty. "Times" are said to make "men," but those perilous times were not required in order to influence Job Peirce, who, true to the instincts of the Peirce family, was already thoroughly imbued with the love of democratic principles, and we therefore find him and his brothers Abial, Henry and Seth, at the first alarm and at only a moment's warning, promptly appearing with arms in their hands ready to risk their lives and fortunes in defence of democratic institutions and privileges against the encroachments of arbitrary power.

Governor Hutchinson had taken great pains to cause the removal from office of all persons holding commissions in the local militia of the Colony of Massachusetts, who were known, or reasonably supposed to be of Whig principles, and had filled their places with out-spoken and arrogant Tories, and hence the "train bands" as thus organized could not be relied upon to fight for the cause of the people, but might be expected to sustain Parliament and the King. To meet this emergency, companies of Whigs banded together and formed military organizations called "*minute men*," selected their leaders, armed and equipped themselves, and commenced to drill and discipline; promising to stand by each other in defence of their principles, and respond to the calls of their country either by day or by night, at a moment's warning. At least three of these companies of "*minute men*" were organized in Middleborough, in time to respond to the first call now known as the "LEXINGTON ALARM;" and on that memorable occasion participated in the opening act of the bloody drama under the lead of Captain Abial Peirce,* Isaac Wood, and Nathaniel Wood. Job Peirce

* Copy of the Roll of Capt. Abial Peirce's company of "*minute men*," that responded to the alarm, April 19, 1775, and returned as having performed each two days' service, and record thereof made in the office of Secretary of State in Boston:—

"Abial Peirce, Captain; Joseph Macomber, Lieutenant; Benjamin Darling, 2d Lieutenant;

served as a private soldier in the company commanded by his brother Capt. Abial; his brother Henry, as a private under Capt. Isaac Wood; and his brother Seth, under Capt. Nathaniel Wood.

Not only among the Peirce brothers were all in this matter agreed as touching one thing; but in the family of his wife, did Job Peirce find a kindred spirit—Levi Rounsevell,* his brother-in-law, being the first in the Tory town of Freetown to lead off in the cause of the people, and set about organizing a company of "minute men," under the very noses of "Col. Gilbert and his Banditti," which company alone represented the Whig cause and sentiments of Freetown in the field, on that day when the soil of Concord and Lexington drank the first blood of the Revolution.

The companies of "minute men" that performed such essential service on the occasion of the "Lexington Alarm," now that war had actually begun, speedily gave place to more permanent military organizations, and the American Army, consisting of men enlisted for a term of months or years, sprang into existence. Job Peirce is now commissioned Second Lieutenant, in the company of Capt. Nathaniel Wood,† and in Col. Cary's‡ regiment. (See Records of 1775, in the office of the Secretary of State.)

Josiah Smith, Richard Peirce, Elias Miller, Jr., and Job Macomber, Sergeants; Bachelor Bennett, Jedediah Lyon, Samuel Eddy, and John Bly, Corporals." "Caleb Simmons, Drummer; Nathaniel Foster, Fifer."

* Privates—Job Peirce, Samuel Hoar, David Thomas, 2d, Michael Mosher, Jesse Pratt, Jacob Hayford, Job Hunt, Henry Bishop, Consider Howland, Noah Clark, Cornelius Haskins, John Rogers, Lebbeus Simmons, Caleb Wood, John Boothe, Ithamer Haskins, John Reynolds, Nathaniel Macomber, Levi Jones, Josiah Smith, Jr., Malachi Howland, Jr., Zachariah Padlock, Jr., Rufus Howland, Silva Purinton, John Fry, Jr., John Douglas, Jr., Ebenezer L. Bennett, Samuel Miller, Isaac Kennedy, Daniel Reynolds, Rufus Weston, Ziba Eaton, Isaac Miller, Nehemiah Peirce, Samuel Bennett, Joshua Thomas, Calvin Johnson, Joshua Read, Crispas Shaw, James Willis, Sylvanus Churchill, Samuel Macomber, Richard Orney, Israel Thomas, Ichabod Read, Samuel Ransom, Daniel Jucker. —Recapitulation: commissioned officers, 3; non commissioned, 8; musicians, 2; privates, 47. Total 60."

* "A Muster Roll of Captain Levi Rounsevell's Minute company, that marched on the alarm on the 19th of April, from Freetown, in the County of Bristol, their travel and time of service. Each 22 miles travel, and three days duty.

"Levi Rounsevell, Captain; Samuel Taber and Nathaniel Morton, Lieutenants; John White and Consider Crapo, Sergeants; Joshua Lawrence and Seth Hilman, Corporals.—Privates, Philip Tabor, Urith Peirce, Benjamin Lawrence, Abial Cole, Consider White, Jesse Kenn, Jacob Benson, John Clark, John Bailey, Percival Ashley, Ichabod Johnson, Micha Ashley, Seth Morton, Jeff. Sachems, Laurell Haskell, Louis De Moranville, Abram Ashley, Chs. De Moranville, Aaron Seekel, Abner Haskins, Ben'jn Runnels, Thomas Rounsevell, Peter Crapo, Joseph Hackett. Recapitulation: commissioned officers, 3; non-commissioned officers, 4; privates, 24. Total 31."

A true copy of the names borne on Capt. Rounsevell's roll, as recorded in the office of the Secretary of State, Boston. Attest, Ebenezer W. Peirce.

Capt. Levi Rounsevell was father of Rev. Wm. Rounsevell, who represented the town of Freetown for ten successive years in the General Court at Boston, and great-grandfather of Rev. Wm. R. Alger, of Boston. Lieut. Nathaniel Morton was grandfather of Hon. Marcus Morton, formerly Governor of Massachusetts. Private Peter Crapo was grandfather of Col. Henry H. Crapo, Governor of Michigan.

† This is probably the same man who had commanded one of the companies of "Minute men," at the Lexington Alarm. After the war he settled in Vermont. In 1762, he had been commissioned Ensign of the 1st company of local militia in Middleborough.

‡ Col. Cary is identical with Capt. Simon Cary, of Bridgewater, who served as a Captain under Col. Thomas Doty, from March 18, to Dec. 11, 1758, and in an expedition against Canada, from May 14, 1759, to January 2, 1760. He was promoted to a Colonelcy in the war of the Revolution.

"A Roll of Capt. Nathaniel Wood's company, in Col. Simon Cary's regiment, Roxbury, April 1, 1775."

Nathaniel Wood, Captain; Joseph Tupper, 1st Lieutenant; Job Peirce, 2d Lieutenant; Jesse Vaughn, Ensign; Caleb Bryant, Andrew McCulley, William Burnet and Joseph

At the commencement of the war of the Revolution, as for several years before, the local militia of Middleborough were organized as four companies, and of the 4th (in 1773) William Canady* was commissioned Captain, and John Nelson,† Lieutenant. But Canady proving an inveterate Tory, was deposed from office (probably by the act of the Massachusetts Legislature limiting the term of all commissions to the 19th of September, 1775), and on the 9th of May, 1776, the offices in 4th company were filled by commissioning Job Peirce as Captain, and Josiah Smith and Samuel Hoar as Lieutenants.

On the "secret expedition," so called, to Tiverton, R. I., in 1777, Capt. Job Peirce performed another tour of 30 days duty in the field. The names of the men composing his command—those who did their duty, and also those who "ran away, and lived to fight another day"—are given in the records in the office of the Secretary of State, Boston.‡

On the attempt made by the British troops to burn Fairhaven, together with their landing in Dartmouth (now New Bedford) in 1778, Capt. Job Peirce again took the field. At that date (Sept. 17, 1778) my father had only entered upon his fourth year. Nearly three

Holmes, Sergeants: Nathaniel Sampson, Josiah Jones, Benjamin Reed, John Samson, Corporals: Sylvan Raymond, Drummer: Daniel White, Fifer.—Privates: Joseph Alrich, Philip Austin, Isaac Bryant, Stephen Bryant, Ebenezer Benner, Ebenezer Barden, David Bates, Benjamin Cobb, Gideon Cushman, Robert Cushman, Abel Cole, Abel Cole, Jr., James Cobb, George Caswell, Jonathan Caswell, Zeb. Caswell, George Clemens, Nathan Darling, Paul Deau, Ephraim Dunham, Sylvanus Eaton, Zibe Eaton, Thomas Ellis, Ephraim Eddy, Andrew Fuller, Thomas Foster, Edward Gish, John Holmes, George (Hackett), Joshua Howland, John Jones, Consider Jones, Thomas Jenson, Jonathan Morse, John Macomber, Will. Pecker, John Raymond, Lemuel Raymond, Isaac Rider, Nathan Richmond, Daniel Shaw, Nathaniel Shaw, Aaron Simmons, Josiah Smith, Ezra Smith, James Soale, Larnabas Samson, John Strobridge, George Strobridge, Samuel Thatcher, Samuel Thatcher, Jr., Eliph. Thomas, Eleazer Thomas, David Thomas, Benjamin Thomas, Silas Townsend, John Thomas, Amos Wood, Peter Wood, Abner Vaughn, Ephraim Wood, Robert Wood, Jacob Wood, Samuel Wood, Andrew Warren, David Shaw, Thomas Shaw.

* Capt. William Canady was brother of Hannah, the wife of Capt. Abiel Peirce, and a son of the heroic defender of the fort at St. George's River, in 1723.

† John Nelson was a son of Lieut. Thomas Nelson and wife Judith Peirce (No. 26). John was commissioned junior Major of the 4th regiment, Plymouth County Brigade, of local militia, May 9, 1776; promoted to Lieut. Col. in or about 1779, and to Colonel, July 1, 1781; discharged in or about 1787. He was born Oct. 25, 1737, and died Sept. 11, 1803. He was 1st cousin to Capt. Job Peirce, and their wives were 1st cousins, and he like Capt. Peirce learned the trade of a blacksmith, and were near neighbors, residing in that part of Middleborough now Lakeville.

‡ Capt. Job Peirce's company in Col. Theophilus Cotton's regiment, in service at Rhode Island:

Job Peirce, Captain; Sergeants, Peter Hoar, Consider Howland, Joseph Bumpus and Archibald Leonard; Corporals, Isaac Canady, Samuel Maxim, Samuel Thatcher and Samuel Piekens; Musician, Nathaniel Macomber.—Privates: Abner Alden, Solomon Bolton, John Boothe, Solomon Beal, John Benson, Isaac Benson, Joseph Bennett, William Briant, Abijah Briant, Ephraim Campbell, Noble Canady, Simeon Coombs, Isaac Churchill, Joseph Churchill, Larnabas Caswell, Lot Eaton, Nathan Eaton, Israel Eaton, Abiel Edson, Cornelius Ellis, John Hackett, Thomas Haskins, Joshua Haskins, Braddock Hoar, Joshua Howland, Thomas Hoffords, Lazarus Hathaway, Peleg Hathaway, Micha Hammond, William Holmes, George Howland, Nathaniel Haskins, Jethro Keith, Moses Leonard, Perez Leonard, John Macomber, William Morton, Isaac Morse, Nathan Peirce, Hilkiah Peirce, Elphadter Peirce, Richard Peirce, Samuel Pratt, Thomas Paddock, James Perry, Joseph Perry, William Piekens, Thomas Piekens, Stephen Robinson, Benjamin Reynolds, Eleations Reynolds, Joseph Richmond, Ezra Richmond, Seth Richmond, Job Richmond, John Rickard, Samuel Reed, Lemuel Raymond, James Raymond, Stephen Russell, William Strobridge, William Simmons, Jacob Sherman, Zephaniah Shaw, Chapman Shaw, Joshua Smith, Seth Simpson, David Trotant, John Townsend, Elias Townsend, Josiah Thomas, Enoch Thomas, Nehemiah Warren, Abner Weston, John White, Ekanah Wood. Deserters:—Solomon Burdett, Jos. L. Howard, Job Hill, Benjamin Hackett, John Jones, William Le Baron, Abiel Smith. Recapitulation:—Commissioned, 1; non commissioned, 8; musician, 1; privates, 53. Total 93.

score years afterwards he told the writer, then a little boy, many incidents illustrating the panic that prevailed in the neighborhood of the threatened invasion. The parish minister, mounted on a fleet horse, went scouring through the country giving the alarm. His father, leaving his family hastily, mustered the local militia, and his mother, bearing an infant in her arms, with the aid of her small children,* carried away and concealed beds, silver ware and other household furniture in the ground, and then hid themselves in a neighboring swamp, where they remained till night. The British were prevented from penetrating the country by the stubborn resistance of the militia under the lead of the gallant Major Israel Fearing.

Capt. Job Peirce was a man of strong religious faith, and showed his faith by his works.† Few members of the Calvinist Baptist congregation were so seldom absent from the meeting on Sunday, although his dwelling was several miles from the church, and his hand and his heart were always open both to public and private religious and benevolent enterprises.

On the 9th of June, 1790, his wife died, leaving a numerous family of children. In October, 1799, Capt. Peirce married, for his second wife, Elizabeth, widow of Lieut. Robert Strobridge,‡ of Middleborough, who died about nine years previous to this time. She was a daughter of William Nelson and wife Elizabeth Howland, and survived even her second husband nearly 30 years, and died March 22, 1846, when more than four score and ten years old. Capt. Job Peirce died July 22, 1819, in his 82d year. His remains, with those of his first wife, were interred in the family cemetery upon his homestead farm in Middleborough, now Lakeville. He had no children by his second wife. She was interred in the ancient cemetery on the south shore of Assawanisset Pond, in Lakeville. Capt. Peirce and both wives have suitable grave-stones.

Abial Cole and wife ANNA PEIRCE (No. 48), had—

(168) Abial, whom tradition says was a soldier in the Revolutionary army, and never returned home ; thought to have lost his life.

(169) John.

(170) Joseph.

(171) Robert.

(172) Lydia, § b. Nov. 8, 1763 : m. Samuel Pickens, of Middleborough. She d. May 10, 1842. He d. Feb. 7, 1823, in his 67th year.

* One of these children, a boy of 5 years, carried in the arms of his sister, in their flight, was a Major in the next war with England, and commanded a battalion stationed for the defence of New Bedford in 1814.

† No other man in Middleborough, at that time, bestowed so much money on objects of charity and benevolence, in building meeting houses, and paying for the support of the ministry. He is said to have given away, for the causes of education and religion, forty thousand dollars. He was the donor of Peirce Academy in Middleborough. He was an industrious man, rose daily before the sun, and always spent half an hour alone in prayer and meditation before calling the servants from their beds. He was a slave-holder, but one at least of his slaves remained with him after being set free, even until death, and the sorrow expressed when the death of that negro was mentioned was like that felt for one of the family.

‡ Lieut. Robert Strobridge died very suddenly, Aug. 14, 1790, from the effects of going into a well to recover a lost bucket, he being warm and perspiring freely at the time. An inventory of his estate showed him to be the wealthiest man in Middleborough at that date. He was a Selectman of Middleborough at the time of his death.

§ Parents of George Pickens, formerly Postmaster at Assonet village, in Freetown, Representative to the General Court, and Selectman of Freetown.

(173) Betsy, m. Joseph Smith.

(174) Hannah.

(175) Phebe, m. June 25, 1797, Benjamin Hix, of Westport.

(176) Mercy,* m. Philip Rounsevell, 3d, of East Freetown, in 1775. He was a son of Philip Rounsevell, Jr., grandson of Philip the emigrant.

(177) Polly.

(178) Phineas.

[Feb. 5, 1807.

(179) Anna, m. Nathaniel Morton Fuller,† of Sherburn, Vermont,

Abial Cole, the parent, was a Sergeant in Capt. Benjamin Pratt's company, of Col. Thomas Doty's regiment, in service in 1758 : Job Peirce (No. 47) and Thomas Peirce being soldiers in the same company. The name of Abial Cole also appears as a soldier in the company of Capt. Levi Rounsevell's " Minute men " that responded to the call at the Lexington Alarm, April 19, 1775, and he also appears to have served one month and seven days at Rhode Island, in Capt. Manasseh Kempton's company, Col. Carpenter's regiment, in 1777, and it is traditionally asserted that he died in or about 1781. He appears to have owned a farm in East Freetown ; perhaps a part of the farm was also in Middleborough, as there is good authority to show that the house stood on the line between Freetown and Middleborough. Tradition says he removed his family to Shutesbury and there died, leaving them in destitute circumstances, and that they were relieved by Capt. Job Peirce, who took measures to bring them back to Freetown, where Anna the widow became the wife of Thomas Rounsevell. These traditions are given upon the authority of two grandchildren of Abial and Anna Cole,‡ daughters of Lydia Cole (No. 172). Anna the mother died in Sept., 1806. Thomas Rounsevell, her 2d husband, died Jan. 31, 1826, aged 80 years. Anna is said to have been interred in the Rounsevell burial place at East Freetown ; but, if so, she has no stone with inscription to mark the spot.

Capt. HENRY PEIRCE (No. 40), son of Ebenezer Peirce (No. 22) and wife Mary Hoskins, was born in that part of Middleborough set off in 1853 and incorporated as a new town under the name of Lakeville. The precise date of his birth I have not been able to learn, but from the age given upon his grave-stone conclude it must have been in or near 1743. Like his elder brothers Capt. Abial|| and Job¶ Peirce,

* Parents of Gamaliel Rounsevell, Esq., formerly of Middleborough, a man of marked ability, Justice of the Peace and Representative to General Court, Auditor of Town Accounts, &c. For a time, a trader in dry and West India goods, at Nuttuck, so called, in Middleborough.

† Nathaniel M. Fuller was son of Capt. John Fuller and wife Martha Morton, grandson of Lieut. Nathaniel Morton, of Freetown, and wife Martha Tupper, great-grandson of Nathaniel Morton.

‡ Martha, widow of Silas Terry, and Malaney, wife of Capt. John V. Pratt, of Freetown.

§ Mary Hoskins was a daughter of Henry Hoskins, Sen'r, of Taunton, and a sister of Henry Hoskins, Jr., of that town. Henry, Jr. married June 8, 1745, Mary, a daughter of Philip Rounsevell, of Freetown, the emigrant. Henry, Sen'r, was a son of William Hoskins, of Taunton. William married, July 3, 1677, Sarah Caswell, and their children were: Anna, born Feb. 11, 1678; Sarah, born Aug. 31, 1679; William, born June 30, 1681; Henry, born Oct. 12, 1686, married, first, Abigail —, and second, the Widow Priscilla Boothie, and he died July 29, 1771; Josiah, born April 1, 1689; John, born Sept. 28, 1690; Jacob, born Nov. 1, 1692; Stephen, born Sept. 2, 1697.

|| Capt. Abial Peirce, when 22 years of age, served as a private soldier 20 weeks and 4 days in the company of Capt. Samuel N. Nelson; date of enlistment, July 15, 1776. In 1780 he served as a Corporal under Capt. Joseph Tinkham, at one of the alarms consequent upon the attack of Fort William Henry. Was promoted to a Lieutenant in 1789, and Captain in 1790.

¶ Capt. Job Peirce commenced his military service in the field as a private soldier, when 19 years of age.

he appears at an early age to have become thoroughly imbued with an adventurous and military spirit, and served out one enlistment in the company of Capt. Abial Peirce (in Col. Willard's regiment, "in service at the westward"—so says the record at the State House), when only 17.* In 1762 (March 24) Henry Peirce again enlists, and serves (in a company of which "Ephraim Holmes, Esq." is Captain) 50 weeks and 4 days. Whole amount of wages due Henry Peirce was 22 pounds 15 shillings and 2 pence, from which was deducted 14 shillings for beer, leaving a balance of 22 pounds 1 shilling and 2 pence. In this company his brother Job was a companion in arms. Their services closed with the war, which was brought to an end by the treaty of peace concluded and signed at Paris, on the 10th of February, 1763.

At the age of 25 years (viz., March, 1768), Henry Peirce was united in marriage with Salome, a daughter of Rev. Ebenezer Hinds,† pastor of the Baptist Church in Middleborough, now Lakeville, and on the 26th of January, 1769, their daughter Susannah (No. 180) was born, who married, Nov. 18, 1788, Abial Booth of Middleborough, a soldier under Capt. Henry Peirce when in service at Rhode Island in 1777.

(181) Mary, second daughter, b. in 1770; m. Feb. 13, 1791, Abner Clark, Esq., of Middleborough, now Lakeville. He was commissioned Aug. 29, 1799, Ensign in the militia of Middleborough. She died July 25, 1847. He died May 1, 1830, aged 55 years. (Town Records of Middleborough, Roster in Adjutant General's office, Boston, and grave-stones in Lakeville.)

(182) Salome, m. Thomas White, of East Freetown, Feb. 19, 1799.

(183) Ebenezer, b. Nov. 21, 1777; m. March 12, 1801, Charity Hinds, of Middleborough, and removed to the State of Maine, where he died Dec. 3, 1852. He was commissioned (Aug. 15, 1796) Ensign of the 7th Co. of local militia in Middleborough, Abanaam Hinds being Captain, and Benj. Chase Lieut. He was master builder of the Congregational meeting-house erected at Assonet Village, Freetown, in 1809, and noted as an ingenious mechanic.

(184) Henry, b. in 1778; m. 1st, ———; m. 2d, ———. He died Sept. 1, 1826, and was buried in the ancient cemetery by Assawamset Pond, in Middleborough.

(185) Lydia, b. Oct. 17, 1781; d. Dec. 26, 1863; m. 1st, William Jenney of Fairhaven. He was lost at sea, and she then m. Capt. Nathaniel Staples of Berkley, b. Jan. 6, 1777; d. July 17, 1862. He was commissioned Lieut. of 1st Co. of the local militia in Berkley, April 25, 1805; promoted to Captain, March 31, 1807; removed to Middleboro' in April, 1822; was a Selectman of that town, and once a Representative to General Court at Boston.

The commencement of the French and Indian war found Henry Peirce a beardless boy—precocious, it is true, in the qualities of soldier; but at the time of the fights at Lexington and Concord he was

* The dilapidated condition of the record does not admit of determining how long he served, but enough to prove that he performed a tour of duty.

† Rev. Ebenezer Hinds was born in Middleboro' in 1719. He was the second son of fifth child of John Hinds and wife Hannah Shaw. They were married in 1709. The meeting-house stood in that part of Middleboro' now Lakeville, and was accidentally destroyed by fire.

a man of 32 years, having a wife and several children, and the novelty (if indeed war to him was ever viewed as a novelty) has passed away, and is only regarded as a dreadful necessity. The tocsin of war is therefore no sooner sounded, than he with his old King's arm promptly takes his place in the ranks of a Company of minute men under Capt. Isaac Wood, who lost no time in repairing to Marshfield to administer a proper quietus to the Tories of that town, who have banded together under the title of "Associated Loyalists."

When the events of April 19, 1775, had taken place, and a Continental Army was called for, Henry Peirce, with characteristic energy and patriotism, soon assisted in raising a Company in his town and neighborhood, which became a part of the 9th Continental Regiment, commanded by Col. Daniel Brewer. In this Company Henry Peirce was commissioned as first Lieutenant.*

Early in 1777 we find Henry Peirce, now a Captain, with a company in Rhode Island,† where the Records at the State House credit him and his Lieutenant, Peter Hoar, each with 30 days service, and George Shaw, his Ensign, with 7 days duty, and the enlisted men with different terms of time.

In August, 1780, Capt. Peirce and his company‡ performed another

* Capt. Levi Rounsill's Company in 9th Regiment of Continental Army, as copied from the records in office of Secretary of State, Boston, dated October, 1775;

Levi Rounsill of Freetown, Captain; Henry Peirce of Middleborough, Lieutenant; Samuel Taper of Freetown, Ensign. Sergeants: Joseph Maconiber, Job Hunt and David Trouant of Middleboro', and John White of Freetown. Corporals: Hilkiah Peirce of Middleboro', Zereb Haskell of Dartmouth, Micha Ashley of Freetown, and Richard Peirce of Middleborough. Drummer, Leonard Hinds of Middleborough; Fifer, Zadoc Peirce of Freetown.—Privates: of Dartmouth—Win. Fisher, Abraham Fisher, Jesse Keen, Thomas Wescott; Freetown—Noah Ashley, Jephth Ashley, Thomas Amos, John Braler, Jacob Benson, Timothy Borden, Josiah Bowen, Jesse Briggs, John Clark, Alderman Crank, George Davis, Joshua Davis, Samuel Evans, William Evans, Abner Holmes, Eliphalet Harkins, Benjamin Ingraham, Timothy Ingraham, Joshua Lawrence, Jabez Lumbart, Reuben Mason, Uriah Peirce, William Parker, James Page, Daniel Page, Gideon Bemis, Aaron Seckel, Thomas Street, Jeff Sachens, Philip Taber, Charles Tobey, Benjamin Wescott, Samuel West, Simeon White; Middleborough—William Armstrong, Joseph Boothe, Ephraim Douglass, Henry Evans, Anthony Frey, Levi Simmons, Nathan Trouant.—Recapitulation: commissioned officers, 3; non-commissioned and music, 10; privates, 45. Total, 58.

† Captain Henry Peirce's Company in Col. Theophilus Cotton's Regiment, entered March 4th:

Henry Peirce, Captain; Peter Hoar, Lieutenant; George Shaw, Ensign. Non-commissioned officers and musicians: Amasa Wood, Daniel Ellis, Joseph Wood, Roland Leonard, George Mackett, William Hall, James Le Baron, Nathaniel Cole, Israel Eaton, Haziell Dartmouth.—Privates: Churchel Thomas, Jeremiah Thomas, Andrew Cobb, Samuel Sampson, James Palmer, Elijah Shaw, David Fish, Jacob Soule, Haziell Tinkham, Jabez Vaughan, Samuel Barrows, Joseph Bennett, John Morton, John Morton, 2d, Roland Smith, Rounsivill Peirce, Peter Thomas, Edmund Weston, Joseph Tinjper, Lemuel Lyon, William Littlejohn, Daniel Cox, Thomas Pratt, David Pratt, Abiel Boothe, Ebenezer Howland, Josiah Kingman, Jacob Perkins, Luther Pratt, Seth Wade, Noah Haskell, Lemuel Raymond, Maryass h Wood, Francis Le Brun, Asaph Church, II, Samuel Thomas, Nathaniel Thomas, Edward Washburn, William Bly, Joseph Maconiber, Lemuel Briggs, Jonathan Wescott, Ephraim Dunham, Isaac Harlow, Nathaniel Cobb, Andrew Rickett, Jonathan Porter, James Porter, James Sprout, John Thrasher.—Recapitulation: commissioned, 3; non-commissioned and musicians, 10; privates, 51. Total, 63.

‡ Captain Henry Peirce's Company, in Lt. Col. White's Regiment:

Henry Peirce, Captain; Peter Hoar, Lieutenant; Ezra Clark, Ensign. Non-commissioned officers: Ebenezer Hinds, Robert Hoar, Joseph Boothe, Nathaniel Maconiber, Benjamin Booth, Henry Edminster, Ebenezer Hayford.—Privates: Josiah Holloway, Ezra Reynolds, John Reynolds, Benjamin Reynolds, Eleccion Reynolds, Isaac Reynolds, Enos Reynolds, Ebenezer Howland, Samuel Howland, John Howland, Joshua Howland, Essek Howland, John Hoar, John Holloway, Richard Parrie, Samuel Parrie, Uriah Peirce, George Peirce, Seth Simmons, Lebeus Simmons, Jacob Sherman, Earl Sears, Nathan Trouant, Daniel Collins, John Church, Roger Clark. Recapitulation: commissioned officers, 3; non-commissioned, 7; privates, 26. Total, 36.

short tour of duty in Rhode Island, and in the regiment commanded by Lt. Col. Ebenezer White, of Rochester.*

At the re-organization of the militia of Massachusetts, upon the adoption of the State Constitution, Capt. Henry Peirce was commissioned Captain of the seventh Company of the local militia of Middleborough, his commission bearing date July 1, 1781.†

On the 17th of June, 1784, Salome, the wife of Capt. Henry Peirce, died, and on the 17th of March, 1785, he was united in marriage with Deborah, a daughter of Job Chase of Middleborough, and the fruits of the 2d marriage were three children:

(186) Tilar, b. Feb. 15, 1786; m. Elizabeth ———. He was a master mariner, and was knocked overboard by a boom and drowned in Long Island Sound.

(187) Deborah, b. Jan. 18, 1788; m.

(188) Keziah, b. Feb. 15, 1790; m.

Deborah, the 2d wife, was b. in 1762. She was a granddaughter of Benjamin Chase, 3d, and wife Mary Briggs, great-granddaughter of Benjamin Chase, Jr., and wife Mersey Simmons, and great-great-granddaughter of Benjamin Chase, a cooper, who was probably the earliest Chase settler at Freetown.

Capt. Henry Peirce died January 22, 1791, and Deborah then married Lieut. Asa Winslow, and became the mother of Asa T. Winslow, Esq., one of the substantial men of Lakeville, a Justice of the Peace for Plymouth County, and Representative to the General Court at Boston.

Capt. Henry Peirce and both his wives were buried in the ancient cemetery near the southern shore of the Assawamset pond, in Lakeville. Deborah, the 2d wife, died Dec. 23, 1849, aged about 87 years. Capt. Peirce and wives have suitable grave-stones.

Benjamin Spooner‡ and wife MARY PEIRCE (No. 50) had:

(189) Lorana, b. April 8, 1765; m. Abner Peirce of Middleboro', now Lakeville. She died January, 1812.

* The remains of Lt. Col. Ebenezer White were interred in the burial ground near the Academy at Centre Rochester, Plymouth County, Mass., where a slate stone marking his grave bears the following inscription: "Memento Morti. Sacred to the memory of Col. Ebenezer White, who died March, 1801, Aet. 89. He was 19 times chosen to represent the Town of Rochester in the General Court: In 14 of which elections he was unanimously chosen. As a tribute of respect for his faithful service, the Town erected this monument to his memory."—At an engagement between the British and Americans on Rhode Island, in the Revolution, the guard chain to the handle of Col. Whit's sword was shot off by a bullet. He was a descendant from William White, through Resolved, Samuel, John, and John, Jr.

† The original Map Inspection Return of Capt. Henry Peirce's Company in the local militia of Middleboro' was found among the papers of Col. John Nelson more than sixty years after the Colonel's death. The following is a true copy of the names borne upon that return. Attest, Ebenezer W. Peirce. "Training Band, Henry Peirce, Capt.; Peter Hoar, Lieut. Sergeants: Robert Hoar, Wm. Canedy, Bradock Hoar, — Howland. Corporals: Leheus Simmons, Seth Simmons. Privates: Stephen Hathaway, James Peirce, Enos Peirce, George Peirce, Simeon Peirce, Seth Keen, Joseph Keen, Philip Hoskins, John Allen, Josiah Holloway, Samuel Pariss, Isaac Pariss, Moses Pariss, Seth Borden, William Stroutidge, John Hoskins, John Thrasher, Joseph Boothe, Benjamin Boothe, Ebenezer Hatford, Barnabas Clark, Samuel Record, Isaac Smith, Jonathan Hatford, Samuel Howland, Henry Edmister, Constable Howland, Ebenezer Howland, Rufus Howland, Essek Howland, John Hoar, Wm. Hoar, Isaac Hathaway, David Pratt, Seth Ramsdell, Jacob Sherman, David Brannin. Alarm List: Daniel Jucker, Joseph Boothe, Lieut. Josiah Smith, Nathaniel Cloppen, Job Chase, Lieut. Ezra Clark, Richard Peirce, Abraham Peirce.—Receipts: Train Band, 15; alarm list, 8. Total, 53."—The return was made to John Nelson, Esq., then Col. of the local regiment of militia to which Capt. H. Peirce's company belonged.

‡ I am indebted to the kindness of Thomas Spooner, Esq., of Reading, Ohio, for several important facts in the history of this branch of the Spooner family.

- (190) William, b. Sept. 22, 1766; m. He d. August 12, 1829.
- (191) Frederick, b. April 8, 1768; d. April 10, 1768.
- (192) Frederick, b. July 23, 1769; m. He d. May 31, 1842.
- (193) Zeruah, b. August 20, 1771; m. Benjamin Green.
- (194) Luther, b. March 22, 1774; m. Hannah Allen. He d. Aug. 10, 1861.
- (195) Mary, b. March 29, 1776; m. Eleazer Peirce of Middleboro', October 12, 1795.
- (196) Betsey, b. Jan. 2, 1778; m. Levi Macomber.
- (197) Benjamin, b. Nov. 22, 1780; d. Jan. 24, 1789.
- (198) Calvin, b. Sept. 20, 1782; d. April 23, 1785.

Benjamin Spooner, the parent, owned and occupied a farm adjacent to and near the southern border of that beautiful lake in Lakeville, known as "Elder's Pond," and there probably the ten children above enumerated were born. The house has long since been demolished and lands sold, but the locality is still known as the "*Spooner Place.*" Benjamin Spooner served as a soldier in the French and Indian war, and as a patriot soldier in the war of the Revolution he served at Rhode Island, being clerk and sergeant of Capt. Amos Washburn's company in Col. White's regiment nine days, and he also served in Capt. Amos Washburn's company at New Bedford in May, 1778, two days.* Benjamin Spooner was a son of Benjamin and Zeruah Spooner, and born in Middleborough, Oct. 23, 1743. (See Town Records of M.)

Captain SETH PEIRCE (No. 51), son of Ebenezer Peirce (No. 22) and wife Mary Hoskins, was born in Middleborough, now Lakeville, in or about the year 1747, and was therefore too young to participate in the exploits of the French and Indian war, being only nine years of age at its commencement, and scarcely sixteen at its close. When 22 years of age (viz., Nov. 9, 1769), he was united in marriage with Huldah Sampson of Middleborough, and owned and cultivated a farm in the Titicut Parish of his native town, but ere long disposed of it and removed to Shutesbury, in old Hampshire, now Franklin County, and subsequently to Hardwick.

His removal to Shutesbury must have occurred some time during the war of the Revolution, for on the 19th of April, 1775, he was among the "minute men" of Middleborough that marched to Marshfield under Capt. Nathaniel Wood (See Records of Rolls of Lexington Alarm in State House, Boston), and at a later period we find him commanding a company raised for three months service from towns in Hampshire County, and his own residence reported as at Shutesbury.† (Rolls of Revolution, State House.)

* This was a company of militia of Middleborough, of which Amos Washburn was Captain, Elisha Haskell Lieut., and Andrew McCully 2d Lieut. Capt. Washburn owned and occupied the farm where his son, Luther Washburn, Esq., resided and died, and where the grandson, Cyrus Washburn, now lives.

† Muster Roll of Capt. Seth Peirce's Company, in Col. Seth Murray's Regiment from the County of Hampshire, engaged to serve three months:

Seth Peirce of Shutesbury, Captain; James Lyman of Northfield, 1st Lieut.; John Sampson of New Salem, 2d Lieut.; Zephania Montague of Leverett, 3d Lieut.; Silas Bell of Leverett, Surgeon; Israel Russell, Ebenezer Damon, Joseph Vaughan and Nathaniel Brown, Sergeants; Solomon Gunn, Bezadai Woods, William Weir and Jonathan Orutt, Corporals; Seth Field and Phineas Field, musicians; Privates: Asa Gould, Penguinn Doolittle, Eliphalet Stratton, Cephas Alexander, Eldad Wright, James Scott, Joshua Lyman, Jonathan Belding, Moses Moore, Micho Ramsdale, Sylvanus Woods, Pontius Lyman, Thaddeus

Capt. SETH PEIRCE (No. 51) and wife Hulda Sampson had :—

(199) Martha, b. 1770 ; m. Aug. 23, 1792, David Paige, of Hardwick, Mass. She d. July 31, 1844.

(200) Polly, b. 177— ; m. Sept. 15, 1793, Ashbel Price, of Hardwick, Mass.

(201) Seth, b. 17— ; was a merchant in Boston.

(202) Sampson, b. 17— ; m. ——— Nichols.

(203) Betsey, b. 17— ; m. April 24, 1806, Dr. David Billings. She d. Feb. 1, 1857.

Huldah, the first wife of Capt. Seth Peirce, died March 15, 1793, and on the 22d day of December, in that year, he contracted a second marriage with Rebecca, a daughter of Col. Timothy Page, of Hardwick.* No children were born of this marriage, for she lived less than two years, and died Aug. 2, 1795, aged 26 years. (See grave-stones in Hardwick.)

The next year Capt. Seth Peirce married, for his third wife, Abigail Hinkley, a sister of Hon. Samuel Hinkley, Judge of Probate for Hampshire County, and David Hinkley, an eminent merchant of Boston. Capt. Seth Peirce and third wife Abigail Hinkley had a daughter—

(204) Abigail, b. in 1797 ; m. ——— Hotchkiss, an Englishman ; went with him to the land of his nativity and died there.—Abigail, the third wife of Capt. S. Peirce, died Dec. 30, 1797, aged 37 years. (See grave-stones in Hardwick.) His fourth and last wife was Mary McFarlin, of Worcester, who outlived him.

Capt. Seth Peirce was extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits, and had the esteem of the people in both Shutesbury and Hardwick where he successively resided, being elected selectman of Shutesbury four years.

At the reorganization of the militia immediately after the adoption of the State Constitution, he was honored with the commission of Captain† of a company of the local militia of Shutesbury, Joseph Powers being first, and Simeon Vaughan second Lieutenant, and after becoming an inhabitant of Hardwick, the people of that town showed their appreciation by electing him to represent them in the General Court at Boston. He died Feb. 25, 1809, aged 62 years. (Grave-

Bancroft, David Ramsdale, John Flowers, Robert Ramsdale, John Bowen, Jeddiah Rice, Jonathan Gardner, Wm. Montague, John Moore, Jahluel Farnam, Nodiah Alford, Bezadeel Wright, Ord Montague, Joseph Willard, Samuel Caldwell, George Totman, Joseph Briggs, William Erving, Nathaniel Briggs, Francis Kilder, Jonas Houghton, Samuel Castle, Joseph Rose, Levi Benjamin, Moses Hardwell, Charles Eastman, Ezra Taylor, Elisha Tuttle, James Barnstead, Elisha Gunn, Joseph Rockwood, Absalom Harwood, Joseph French, Lyander Richardson, Daniel Curtis, Benjamin Page, Daniel B——, Nathan Walker, Eli Page, Matthew Martin, Nathan Davis, Amos Peirce, Amos Perry, William Eddy, Francis —, Job Macomber, Jacob Briggs, Jacob Briggs, Jr.—Recapitulation: commissioned officers, 5; sergeants, 4; corporals, 4; musicians, 2; privates, 60. Total, 75.—This company was probably all raised in those towns that fell within the limits of Franklin County at the date of its incorporation, June 21, 1811.

* Col. Timothy Page, of Hardwick, was a representative to the General Court, Boston, a great many years. He was Colonel of the 4th Regiment of local militia, of Worcester County, Ebenezer Newell being Lt. Colonel, and Asa Donforth, Major.

† The date of Capt. Seth Peirce's commission as Captain in the local militia of Shutesbury was July 1, 1794. (See Roster in Adj. General's office, Boston.) He was Representative from Hardwick to the General Court in 1806. (See Records of Hardwick.)

My thanks are due to Rev. Lucius R. Page, formerly of Hardwick, to Mr. Job Pierce of Shutesbury, Mass., and to Hon. Philander Washburn of Middleborough, for facts in the family history of Capt. Seth Peirce.

stones in Hardwick.) His death was caused by accidentally sticking a penknife into his knee.

Stephen Hathaway and wife HOPE PEIRCE (No. 52) had :

(205) Leonard, b. Sunday, Nov. 15, 1767; m. Helen Walker. He d. March 12, 1820. He was a house carpenter. Representative to General Court from Dighton in 1813.

(206) Alden, b. Monday, April 9, 1770; m. (his cousin) Mercy Palmer, daughter of Gideon Palmer and wife Abigail N. Hathaway (145). He d. Sept. 11, 1861. Mercy the wife d. May 11, 1864. They resided at Assonet Village in Freetown.

(207) Stephen, b. Saturday, Sept. 28, 1771; m. Sylvia Briggs. He d. Dec. 24, 1854. They resided in Dighton, Bristol County, Mass.

(208) Nicholas, b. Saturday, Dec. 4, 1773; m. (his cousin) Anna Peirce, of Middleborough. She d. Sept. 28, 1822, aged 60 years, and he m. Mrs. ——— Morton,* widow of David Morton, April 15, 1824. He d. near Milford, Union County, Ohio. He was a physician. He d. Aug. 24, 1848. Second wife d. Feb. 15, 1863, aged 76 years, 9 months, 14 days.

(209) Anne, b. Saturday, Dec. 30, 1775; m. Ephraim Atwood. She d. Aug. 13, 1805.

(210) Elias, b. Friday, Feb. 27, 1778.

(211) Ebenezer, b. Saturday, August 21, 1779; m. Sally Crane, of Berkley. They resided in Dighton, Mass.

(212) Frederick, b. Sunday, Aug. 19, 1781; m. Sally White. He d. November, 1804.

(213) Anson, b. Saturday, Nov. 29, 1783; m. Hope Lee. He d. Feb. 25, 1847.

(214) Hope, b. Thursday, Dec. 8, 1785; never married. Died Nov. 18, 1823.

(215) Polly, b. Friday, Sept. 7, 1787; m. Oliver Peirce, Esq., of Middleborough (now Lakeville), Oct. 7, 1827. She d. April 26, 1832, and he d. Aug. 17, 1860. Both buried in Lakeville where they resided.

(216) Erastus, b. Sunday, Nov. 22, 1789; m. Mercy Norton.

Stephen the parent was a house carpenter. He owned and occupied a farm in Taunton, near the river that divides that town from Dighton. The house is still standing, and now the residence of Stephen Peirce, Esq., a son of Oliver Peirce, Esq., the husband of Polly Hathaway (No. 215), and born of his first wife Amey Peirce. Stephen Hathaway the parent was born in Freetown, Sept. 4, 1745, Old Style, baptized Sept. 15, 1745, and died July 29, 1819; son of Nicholas Hathaway and wife Rebecca Merrick, grandson of Isaac Hathaway and wife Sarah Makepeace.†

EBENEZER PEIRCE, Jr. (No. 53), son of Ebenezer Peirce (No. 22) and wife Mary Hoskins, was the only one of their ten children (viz., six sons and four daughters) who did not marry. He was betrothed to Sarah, a daughter of Robert Hoar, of Middleborough (and born of Judeth Tinkham his second wife in 1757), a beautiful young woman

* Mrs. Morton's maiden name was Mitchell. She was b. May 2, 1786, daughter of David Mitchell, w. d. March 8, 1823, aged 54 years, that being his birth day. Her only brother, a soldier under Gen. Jackson, was killed Jan. 8, 1815.

† My thanks are due to Gideon P. Hathaway, Esq., of Freetown, for many facts concerning this branch of the Hathaway family, and for the interest he has shown in the publication of the Peirce family history.

of scarcely 18 summers, who d. Nov. 22, 1775. (See grave-stones in Caswell burial ground, East Taunton.) Her father, Robert Hoar, a son of Samuel Hoar and wife Rebecca Peirce (No. 17), and b. May 23, 1719, m. Judith Tinkham, Oct. 4, 1753. Peter, son of Robert and Judith, b. July 25, 1751, was the Major Hoar who m. Mercy Peirce (No. 155). The public mind was then thoroughly occupied with the war just commenced between England and her American Colonies, and the five older brothers* of Ebenezer Peirce, Jr., were already risking their lives on the battle field; and mindful of his country's sorrows, and to forget his own, this young man becomes a soldier, and one of a large company, every other one of whom returned bearing his shield. He neither came bearing it nor yet borne upon it, but goes to his last inspection, and passes his great and final review only six days before his term of enlistment expired, his body finding rest in a soldier's grave made near the spot where he gave his life as a sacrifice for the liberties of his native land. He was a private soldier in the company of Capt. Joshua White, of Middleborough, on duty at Newport, R. I. His brother, Job Peirce (No. 47), then a captain in the patriot service, soon took measures to change the name of his youngest son (my father) from John to Ebenezer, from whom it descended to the writer of this family history, who in view of his own suffering has often been led to ask, "*what's in a name?*"

* In the April issue of the Register for 1867, we said three of the six sons of Ebenezer Peirce (No. 22) participated in the French and Indian wars. We have since learned that John, the oldest son (No. 44), served in 1757, and so four instead of three of the six should be credited. We have also said five of the six served in the Revolution; but have since learned that all were actually engaged as soldiers in the patriot army in that war. Thanks are due from me to the Hon. Oliver Warner, Secretary of State, and to his gentlemanly, polite and obliging assistants, Messrs. Pulsifer and Hawley, for their kindness in allowing search of the Records of that office, their generous suggestions, &c., which have enabled me to present copies of so many Muster Rolls.

